

Legislative Analysis



ADOPTING A NEW SYMBOL OF ACCESSIBILITY

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4516 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Beau Matthew LaFave

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 4517 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Greg VanWoerkom

Committee: Health Policy
Complete to 6-19-19

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4516 would amend the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act to require the Civil Rights Commission (established in the Michigan Constitution¹ and charged with investigating alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color, or national origin in the enjoyment of the civil rights guaranteed by law and the constitution, and securing the equal protection of such civil rights without such discrimination) to adopt and put in use a standardized design that is a variation of the International Symbol of Access (ISA) (see pictures below).

The design would have to comply with all of the following:

- Depict a dynamic character leaning forward in a wheelchair with a sense of movement.
- Provide a contrasting background, with either a light symbol on a dark background or a dark symbol on a light background.
- Facilitate accessibility to a degree equivalent to the existing ISA.
- Be simple and avoid any secondary meaning.

One year after the bill took effect, each new placement or replacement of ISA signs required by law, ordinance, or administrative rule of the state or a local unit of government would have to use the design adopted. If placement or replacement was not required under law or rule, the commission and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) would have to encourage use of the design.

Finally, the bill would require the commission and MDCR to take the necessary steps to remove the word “handicapped” from signs or other means of communication of the state or a local unit.

Proposed MCL 37.1102a

¹ <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Article-V-29>

House Bill 4517 would amend the Uniform Traffic Code to provide that signs designating a parking space for persons with disabilities that were erected or placed after the bill took effect would have to use the design adopted in House Bill 4516 (in other words, the picture below on the left). The sign would have to have the same dimensions as existing signs—12 inches by 18 inches or larger—and could not include a written word describing persons with disabilities, such as “handicapped,” but could include a written word providing instruction, such as “reserved.”

MCL 257.951

Both bills would take effect 90 days after enactment. The bills are tie-barred together, which means that neither could take effect unless both were enacted.

BACKGROUND:

In 1968, the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA), pictured below on the right, was created through a design competition and adopted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The ISO is an independent, nongovernmental organization that represents over 160 national standard-setting entities and develops voluntary, consensus-based, international symbols.

As of June 2019, two states have adopted the “Dynamic Accessibility Symbol,” pictured below on the left. New York adopted the symbol in 2014,² and Connecticut adopted it in 2017.³



FISCAL IMPACT:

A fiscal statement is in process.

Legislative Analyst: Jenny McInerney
Fiscal Analysts: Michael Cossen
Marcus Coffin

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

² <https://www.compliancesigns.com/media/resource-bulletins/CRB-NewYork-ISA-DynamicAccessibility.pdf>

³ <https://www.compliancesigns.com/media/resource-bulletins/CRB-Connecticut-ISA-DynamicAccessibility.pdf>